

WOMANHOOD

Womanhood, a term that merely means the state of being a woman.

The time of being a girl has passed and many would say I have become a woman now. A 26 year old white Western European woman, with a university degree, paid job, living on her own, unmarried, no children, past several relationships and politically involved. One could argue it's a beautiful free and independent state of being. My grandmother would be proud for the independency she never was able to reach.

Still I wonder. Writing down this description it sounds hollow. In search to understand the concept of being a woman, I discovered many other strong, but different visions. The Eastern born writer who visits her home country after having lived in the West for a long time and wonders if the things that were so self evident in her youth are really so underdeveloped as the Westerners told her. The Christian woman who devotes her life to biblical womanhood to be in service of her husband and sew her own clothes. The woman who covers her hair to protect her beauty and enjoy it in a private sphere. Then I look at the old communist posters of the ideal strong hardworking women...

There are also the more theoretical associations of the female with deception, changeability, the moon, the earth, darkness, wetness, passivity, and dependence on another. Or the idea that women link their individual value to someone else in their need, born of emptiness wanting to be acknowledged, noticed, flattered, admired, and desired.

To understand my own state of being and the concept of womanhood I started this visual research. A challenge to mirror contemporary 'progressive' ideas and ideals with what one might call more 'conservative' ideas and ideals.

For the exhibition WOMANHOOD, developed by Meldy Ijpelaar, Derde Wall is searching for works of art that represent different ideas and ideals on womanhood. Does your work represent a strong opinion on the state of being a woman? Send a link to your work or an email with your work before 30 June to womanhood.exhibition@gmail.com and maybe we will show your work in our exhibition.

Our website: <http://derdewal.wordpress.com/>

! Note that Derde Wall is a small initiative that has barely any funding and will only be able to pay, if necessary, a reimbursement of expenses !